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| 9 | BEFORE THE | | |
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| 10 | STATE OF CAL | JEORNIA | |
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| 11 | The state of the s | | |
| 12 | In the Matter of the Accusation Against: | Case Nos. 4981 and 5328 | |
| | GEE'S HEALTHCARE PHARMACY, INC., | FIRST AMENDED ACCUSATION | |
| 13 | DBA CABRILLO PARK PHARMACY | THOS AMENDED ACCUSATION | |
| | 2212 East 4th Street #102 | | |
| 14 | Santa Ana, CA 92705 | 되고 하는 다른 그는 분들은 경우를 받는 것이다. | |
| 15 | Pharmacy Permit No. PHY 50066 | | |
| 16 | GEE'S HEALTHCARE PHARMACY, INC., | | |
| | DBA YORBA PARK PHARMACY | | |
| 17 | 2501 E. Chapman Blvd., No. 106 | | |
| 18 | Orange, CA 92869 | | |
| 10 | Pharmacy Permit No. PHY 45771 | | |
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| | JAMES YING-MING GEE | | |
| 20 | 220 Tall Oak | | |
| 21 | Irvine, CA 92603 | | |
| - 11 | Pharmacist License No. RPH 44796 | | |
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| 23 | SOONG OK CHANG | | |
| | 69111 Kast Kutoere Drive | | |
| 24 | Anaheim Hills, CA 92807 | | |
| | Pharmacist License No. RPH 45540 | | |
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ANH NGOC PHAN 11701 Steele Dr. Garden Grove, CA 92840

Pharmacist License No. RPH 42197

Respondents.

Complainant alleges:

PARTIES

- 1. Virginia Herold (Complainant) brings this First Amended Accusation solely in her official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Pharmacy, Department of Consumer Affairs.
- 2. On or about April 16, 2002, the Board of Pharmacy issued Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 45771 to Gee's Healthcare Pharmacy, Inc., doing business as Yorba Park Pharmacy (Respondent Yorba Park Pharmacy). From April 16, 2002 through the present, Respondent James Gee has been the President and fifty percent owner of Respondent Yorba Park Pharmacy. The Pharmacy Permit was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on April 1, 2015, unless renewed.
- 3. On or about September 1, 2009, the Board of Pharmacy issued Pharmacy Permit
 Number PHY 50066 to Gee's Healthcare Pharmacy, Inc., doing business as Cabrillo Park
 Pharmacy (Respondent Cabrillo Park Pharmacy). From September 1, 2009, Respondent James
 Gee has been the President and fifty percent owner of Cabrillo Park Pharmacy. The Pharmacy
 Permit was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will
 expire on September 1, 2015, unless renewed.
- 4. On or about August 26, 1991, the Board of Pharmacy issued Pharmacist License
 Number RPH 44796 to James Ying-Ming Gee (Respondent James Gee.) The Pharmacist License

was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on April 30, 2015, unless renewed.

- 5. On or about August 14, 1992, the Board of Pharmacy issued Pharmacist License Number RPH 45540 to Soong OK Chang (Respondent Soong Chang.) The Pharmacist License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on September 30, 2015, unless renewed.
- 6. On or about September 20, 1988, the Board of Pharmacy issued Pharmacist License Number RPH 42197 to Anh Ngoc Phan (Respondent Anh Phan.) The Pharmacist License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on May 31, 2016, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

- 7. This First Amended Accusation is brought before the Board of Pharmacy (Board),
 Department of Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the following laws. All section
 references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.
- 8. Section 4011 of the Code provides that the Board shall administer and enforce both the Pharmacy Law [Bus. & Prof. Code, § 4000 et seq.] and the Uniform Controlled Substances Act [Health & Safety Code, § 11000 et seq.].
- 9. Section 4300(a) of the Code provides that every license issued by the Board may be suspended or revoked.
 - 10. Section 4300.1 of the Code states:

The expiration, cancellation, forfeiture, or suspension of a board-issued license by operation of law or by order or decision of the board or a court of law, the placement of a license on a retired status, or the voluntary surrender of a license by a licensee shall not deprive the board of jurisdiction to commence or proceed with any investigation of, or action or disciplinary proceeding against, the licensee or to render a decision suspending or revoking the license.

STATUTORY AND REGULATORY PROVISIONS

- 11. Section 4081 of the Code states in pertinent part:
 - (a) All records of manufacture and of sale, acquisition, or disposition of dangerous drugs or dangerous devices shall be at all times during business hours open to inspection by authorized officers of the law, and shall be preserved for at least

three years from the date of making. A current inventory shall be kept by every manufacturer, wholesaler, pharmacy, veterinary food-animal drug retailer, physician, dentist, podiatrist, veterinarian, laboratory, clinic, hospital, institution, or establishment holding a currently valid and unrevoked certificate, license, permit, registration, or exemption under Division 2 (commencing with Section 1200) of the Health and Safety Code or under Part 4 (commencing with Section 16000) of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code who maintains a stock of dangerous drugs or dangerous devices.

- (b) The owner, officer, and partner of any pharmacy, wholesaler, or veterinary food-animal drug retailer shall be jointly responsible, with the pharmacist-in-charge or representative-in-charge, for maintaining the records and inventory described in this section.
- 12. Section 4301 of the Code states in pertinent part:

The board shall take action against any holder of a license who is guilty of unprofessional conduct or whose license has been procured by fraud or misrepresentation or issued by mistake. Unprofessional conduct shall include, but is not limited to, any of the following:

- (d) The clearly excessive furnishing of controlled substances in violation of subdivision (a) of Section 11153 of the Health and Safety Code.
 - (j) The violation of any of the statutes of this state, or any other state, or of the United States regulating controlled substances and dangerous drugs....
- (o) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violation of or conspiring to violate any provision or term of this chapter or of the applicable federal and state laws and regulations governing pharmacy, including regulations established by the board or any other state or federal regulatory agency.
- 13. Section 4113(c) of the Code states:

The pharmacist-in-charge shall be responsible for a pharmacy's compliance with all state and federal laws and regulations pertaining to the practice of pharmacy.

14. Section 4306.5 of the Code states, in pertinent part:

Unprofessional conduct for a pharmacist may include any of the following:

Acts or omissions that involve, in whole or in part, the inappropriate exercise of his or her education, training, or experience as a pharmacist, whether or not the act or omission arises in the course of the practice of pharmacy or the ownership, management, administration, or operation of a pharmacy or other entity licensed by

the board.

Acts or omissions that involve, in whole or in part, the failure to consult appropriate patient, prescription, and other records pertaining to the performance of any pharmacy function.

15. Section 4307(a) of the Code states that:

Any person who has been denied a license or whose license has been revoked or is under suspension, or who has failed to renew his or her license while it was under suspension, or who has been a manager, administrator, owner member, officer, director, associate, or partner of any partnership, corporation, firm, or association whose application for a license has been denied or revoked, is under suspension or has been placed on probation, and while acting as the manger, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, or partner had knowledge or knowingly participated in any conduct for which the license was denied, revoked, suspended, or placed on probation, shall be prohibited from serving as a manger, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, or partner of a licensee as follows:

- (1) Where a probationary license is issued or where an existing license is placed on probation, this prohibition shall remain in effect for a period not to exceed five years.
- (2) Where the license is denied or revoked, the prohibition shall continue until the license is issued or reinstated.
- 16. Health and Safety Code section 11153(a) states:

A prescription for a controlled substance shall only be issued for a legitimate medical purpose by an individual practitioner acting in the usual course of his or her professional practice. The responsibility for the proper prescribing and dispensing of controlled substances is upon the prescribing practitioner, but a corresponding responsibility rests with the pharmacist who fills the prescription. Except as authorized by this division, the following are not legal prescriptions: (1) an order purporting to be a prescription which is issued not in the usual course of professional treatment or in legitimate and authorized research; or (2) an order for an addict or habitual user of controlled substances, which is issued not in the course of professional treatment or as part of an authorized narcotic treatment program, for the purpose of providing the user with controlled substances, sufficient to keep him or her comfortable by maintaining customary use.

17. Section 1707.3 of title 16, California Code of Regulations states:

Prior to consultation as set forth in section 1707.2, a pharmacist shall review a patient's drug therapy and medication record before each prescription drug is delivered. The review shall include screening for severe potential drug therapy problems.

18. Section 1714(b) of title 16, California Code of Regulations states:

Each pharmacy licensed by the board shall maintain its facilities, space, fixtures, and equipment so that drugs are safely and properly prepared, maintained, secured

DRUGS

- 24. <u>Dilaudid</u> is the brand name for hydromorphine, a Schedule II controlled substance pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 11054(b)(J) and a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022.
- 25. Norco is the brand name for hydrocodone/acetaminophen, a Schedule III controlled substance pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 11056(e)(5) and a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022.
- 26. Opana is the brand name for oxymorphone hydrochloride, a Schedule II controlled substance pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 11054(b)(N) and a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022.
- 27. Oxycodone is a Schedule II controlled substance pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 11054(b)(M) and a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022.
- 28. <u>Phenergan with Codeine</u> is the brand name for promethazine with codeine, a Schedule V controlled substance pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 111058(c)(1) and is a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022.
- 29. Xanax is the brand name for alprazolam, a Schedule IV controlled substance pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 11057(d)(1) and a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

30. From April 16, 2002 through the present, Respondent James Gee was the Pharmacist-in-Charge of Respondent Yorba Park Pharmacy. From September 1, 2009 through the present, Respondent James Gee was the Pharmacist-in-Charge of Respondent Cabrillo Park Pharmacy. From September 2012 through January 2013, Respondent Soong Chang was a staff pharmacist at Respondent Cabrillo Park Pharmacy. From June 21, 2012 through November 19, 2013, Respondent Soong Chang was also a staff pharmacist at Respondent Yorba Park Pharmacy. From June 21, 2012 through November 19, 2013, Respondent Anh Phan was a staff pharmacist at Respondent Yorba Park Pharmacy.

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- 31. Respondents Cabrillo Park Pharmacy, James Gee and Soong Chang filled prescriptions for controlled substances which were written by Dr. M.S. from September 24, 2012 through January 11, 2013. Dr. M.S.'s address was listed on the prescriptions filled by Respondents as being 53 miles away from Respondent Cabrillo Park Pharmacy. Respondent Cabrillo Park Pharmacy was an average of 65 miles (one way) from the patients' addresses listed on prescriptions written by Dr. M.S. who had a general practice with a secondary practice in pediatrics and did not specialize in pain management. Patients paid for the controlled substance prescriptions in cash at Respondent Cabrillo Park Pharmacy and did not seek reimbursement from an insurance company or government agency. Patients filled prescriptions for controlled substances prescribed by multiple physicians during the same time frame at multiple pharmacies.
- 32. Respondents Yorba Park Pharmacy, James Gee, Soong Chang and filled prescriptions for controlled substances which were written by Dr. M.S. from June 21, 2012 through November 19, 2013. Dr. M.S.'s address was listed on the prescriptions filled by Respondents as being 51 miles away from Respondent Yorba Park Pharmacy. Respondent Yorba Park Pharmacy was an average of 55 miles (one way) from the patients' addresses listed on prescriptions written by Dr. M.S. who had a general practice with a secondary practice in pediatrics and did not specialize in pain management. Patients paid for the controlled substance prescriptions in cash at Respondent Yorba Park Pharmacy and did not seek reimbursement from an insurance company or government agency. Patients filled prescriptions for controlled substances prescribed by multiple physicians during the same time frame at multiple pharmacies.
- 33. Dr. M.S.'s prescriptions for controlled substances were written in an identical fashion for multiple patients as follows: (1) hydrocodone/APAP 10/325, with directions to take 1-2 tablets three times a day in a quantity of 90-100; (2) alprazolam 2 mg with directions to take 1 tablet three times a day in a quantity of 90; and (3) oxycodone 30mg with directions to take 1 tablet three times a day in a quantity of 90. There was no adjustment in the prescribing pattern for sex, age, weight, renal or hepatic function, race, diagnosis, past medications used or any other patient related factor. None of the "chronic pain patients" being treated by Dr. M.S. were receiving a long acting pain medication to control their baseline pain. Certain prescriptions filled

 by Respondents Cabrillo Park Pharmacy, James Gee and Soong Chang were not signed by Dr. M.S. and other prescriptions were filled by them even though they were signed by a physician who was not the prescribing physician.

- 34. Additionally, drivers picked up the controlled substances for multiple patients from Respondents Cabrillo Park Pharmacy, James Gee and Soong Chang, rather than the patients themselves picking up their prescriptions. Respondents Cabrillo Park Pharmacy, James Gee and Soong Chang did not possess written authorization allowing those drivers to pick up the controlled substance prescriptions for patients. To facilitate the drug transactions with the drivers, Respondents Cabrillo Park Pharmacy, James Gee and Soong Chang kept envelopes which contained prescriptions for controlled substances to be filled, next to the cash register. Respondents Cabrillo Park Pharmacy, James Gee and Soong Chang telephoned the drivers to initiate a pick up when they had filled all the multiple prescriptions for controlled substances. In that same drawer, Respondents Cabrillo Park Pharmacy, James Gee and Soong Chang kept a pricing sheet for controlled substances and the telephone numbers of the drivers to further facilitate these drug transactions with the drivers.
- 35. Respondents Cabrillo Park Pharmacy, Yorba Park Pharmacy and James Gee placed orders for suspiciously large amounts of controlled substances with their drug wholesalers. Notwithstanding those orders, Respondents Cabrillo Park Pharmacy and James Gee did not dispense all the prescriptions for controlled substances in a timely manner as prescribed, because they sought to avoid charges that they were excessively prescribing controlled substances from the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Board.
- 36. Respondents Cabrillo Park Pharmacy, Yorba Park Pharmacy, James Gee, Soong Chang and Anh Phan did not follow proper procedures for verifying if a prescription for a controlled substance was written for a legitimate medical purpose. Indeed, Respondents Cabrillo Park Pharmacy, Yorba Park Pharmacy, James Gee, Soong Chang and Anh Phan dispensed prescriptions to patients who had lost their wallets or social security cards and had been victims of identity theft. And, Respondents' furnishings of controlled substances was higher than neighboring pharmacies during the same time frame.

- 37. On or about February 6, 2014, Dr. M.S. was arrested for violating Business and Professions Code section 2052(b), Health and Safety Code section 11353(a), 11353(c) and 11354. On or about February 10, 2014, a felony Complaint was filed against Dr. M.S. for violating those code sections, among other violations.
- 38. Respondents Cabrillo Park Pharmacy and James Gee also had discrepancies in their drug inventory. From June 2012 through January 2013, Respondents Cabrillo Park Pharmacy and James Gee suffered the following losses of controlled substances: 734 tablets of hydrocodone/APAP 10mg/325mg and 20 tablets of hydromorphone 4mg. They did not report those losses to the Board.
- 39. Respondents Cabrillo Park Pharmacy and James Gee's inventory contained overages of 165 tablets of alprazolam 2mg and 152 tablets of oxycodone 30mg. Therefore, they did not maintain complete records of acquisition for those controlled substances.
- 40. Respondents Yorba Park Pharmacy and James Gee also had discrepancies in their drug inventory. From January 31, 2013 through December 3, 2013, Respondents Yorba Park Pharmacy and James Gee suffered the following losses of controlled substances: 6,332 tablets of alprazolam 2mg, 44,111 tablets of oxycodone 30mg, 14,183 of hydrocodone/APAP 10mg/325mg and 49,855mls or 105 pints (bottles) of promethazine with codeine. They did not report those losses to the Board until prompted to do so by a Board inspector.

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Maintain Current Inventory of Controlled Substance against Respondents

Yorba Park Pharmacy, Cabrillo Park Pharmacy and James Gee)

41. Respondents Cabrillo Park Pharmacy, Yorba Park Pharmacy and James Gee are subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4301(o), for violating title 16, California Code of Regulations, section 1718, in that they did not maintain a current inventory of controlled substances, alprazolam, oxycodone, hydrocodone/APAP and hydromorphone, and suffered losses in their inventory of alprazolam, oxycodone, hydrocodone/APAP, hydromorphone and promethazine with codeine, as set forth in paragraphs 30 through 40 above, which are incorporated herein by reference.

SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Report Drug Losses against Respondents Yorba Park Pharmacy, Cabrillo Park Pharmacy and James Gee)

42. Respondents Cabrillo Park Pharmacy, Yorba Park Pharmacy and James Gee are subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4301(o), for violating title 16, California Code of Regulations, section 1715.6, in that Cabrillo Park Pharmacy and James Gee did not report the losses of hydrocodone/APAP and hydromorphone and Yorba Park Pharmacy and James Gee did not report the losses of alprazolam, oxycodone, hydrocodone/APAP and promethazine with codeine to the Board, as set forth in paragraphs 30 through 40 above, which are incorporated herein by reference.

THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Provide Adequate Security for Controlled Substance against Respondents Yorba Park Pharmacy, Cabrillo Park Pharmacy and James Gee)

43. Respondents Cabrillo Park Pharmacy, Yorba Park Pharmacy and James Gee are subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4301(o), for violating title 16, California Code of Regulations, section 1714(b), in that Cabrillo Park Pharmacy and James Gee did not provide adequate security for hydrocodone/APAP and hydromorphone and Yorba Park Pharmacy and James Gee did not provide adequate security for alprazolam, oxycodone, hydrocodone/APAP and promethazine with codeine, as set forth in paragraphs 30 through 40 above, which are incorporated herein by reference.

FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Maintain Records of Acquisition against Respondents Cabrillo Park Pharmacy and James Gee)

44. Respondents Cabrillo Park Pharmacy and James Gee are subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4301(o), for violating Code section 4081(a), in that they failed to maintain all the records of acquisition for the controlled substances, alprazolam 2mg and oxycodone 30mg, as set forth in paragraphs 30 through 40, which are incorporated herein by reference.

FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failing to Comply with Corresponding Responsibility

for Legitimate Controlled Substance Prescriptions against Respondents)

45. Respondents are subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4301(j), for violating Health and Safety Code section 11153(a), in that they failed to comply with their corresponding responsibility to ensure that controlled substances were dispensed for a legitimate medical purpose when Respondents furnished prescriptions for controlled substances even though "red flags" were present, indicating those prescriptions were not issued for a legitimate medical purpose, as set forth in paragraphs 30 through 40 above, which are incorporated herein by reference.

SIXTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Clearly Excessive Furnishing of Controlled Substances against Respondents)

46. Respondents are subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4301(d), for the clearly excessive furnishing of controlled substances in violation of subdivision (a) of Section 11153 of the Health and Safety Code, as set forth in paragraphs 30 through 40 above, which are incorporated herein by reference.

SEVENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Dispensing Controlled Substance Prescriptions with Significant Errors, Omissions, Irregularities, Uncertainties, Ambiguities or Alterations against Respondents)

47. Respondents are subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4301(o), for violating title 16, California Code of Regulations, sections 1761(a) and (b) in that they dispensed prescriptions for controlled substances, which contained significant errors, omissions, irregularities, uncertainties, ambiguities or alterations, as set forth in paragraphs 30 through 40 above, which are incorporated herein by reference.

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EIGHTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Review Patients' Medication Record Before Prescription Drugs Delivered against Respondents)

Respondents are subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4301(o), for violating title 16, California Code of Regulations, section 1707.3, in that they dispensed prescriptions for drugs, without review of patients' medication records before each prescription drug was delivered. Such a review would have revealed numerous "red flags," as set forth in paragraphs 30 through 40 above, which are incorporated herein by reference.

NINTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Dispensing Controlled Substances with Variations from Prescriptions against Respondents Cabrillo Park Pharmacy and James Gee)

Respondents Cabrillo Park Pharmacy and James Gee are subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4301(o) for violating title 16, California Code of Regulations, section 1716, in that they dispensed controlled substances which deviated from the requirements of the prescriptions without the prior consent of the prescribers and dispensed controlled substances when the prescriptions were prescribed by Dr. M.S. but signed by another physician, as set forth in paragraphs 30 through 40, which are incorporated herein by reference.

TENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Exercise or Implement Best Professional Judgment or Corresponding Responsibility when Dispensing Controlled Substances against Respondents James Gee Soong Chang and Anh Phan)

Respondents James Gee, Soong Chang and Anh Phan are subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4301(o), for violating Business and Professions Code section 4306.5(a) and (b), in that they failed to exercise or implement his or her best professional judgment or corresponding responsibility when dispensing controlled substances, as set forth in paragraphs 30 through 40 above, which are incorporated herein by reference.

ELEVENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unprofessional Conduct against Respondents)

51. Respondents are subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4301 for unprofessional conduct in that they engaged in the activities described in paragraphs 30 through 40 above, which are incorporated herein by reference.

OTHER MATTERS

- 52. Pursuant to Code section 4307, if discipline is imposed on Pharmacy Permit
 Numbers PHY 45771 issued to Gee's Healthcare Pharmacy, Inc., doing business as Yorba Park
 Pharmacy and PHY 50066 issued to Gee's Healthcare Pharmacy, Inc., doing business as Cabrillo
 Park Pharmacy, Gee's Healthcare Pharmacy, Inc., doing business as Yorba Park Pharmacy and
 Cabrillo Park Pharmacy shall be prohibited from serving as a manager, administrator, owner,
 member, officer, director, associate, or partner of a licensee for five years if Pharmacy Permit
 Numbers PHY 45771 and PHY 50066 are placed on probation or until Pharmacy Permit
 Numbers PHY 45771 and PHY 50066 are reinstated if they are revoked.
- Numbers PHY 45771 issued to Gee's Healthcare Pharmacy, Inc., doing business as Yorba Park Pharmacy and PHY 50066 issued to Gee's Healthcare Pharmacy, Inc., doing business as Cabrillo Park Pharmacy while James Ying-Ming Gee has been an officer and owner and had knowledge of or knowingly participated in any conduct for which the licensee was disciplined, James Ying-Ming Gee shall be prohibited from serving as a manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, or partner of a licensee for five years if Pharmacy Permit Numbers PHY 45771 and PHY 50066 are placed on probation or until Pharmacy Permit Numbers PHY 45771 and PHY 50066 are reinstated if they are revoked.
- 54. Pursuant to Code section 4307, if discipline is imposed on Pharmacist License
 No. RPH 44796 issued to James Ying-Ming Gee, James Ying-Ming Gee shall be prohibited from
 serving as a manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, or partner of a
 licensee for five years if Pharmacist License Number RPH 44796 is placed on probation or until
 Pharmacist License Number RPH 44796 is reinstated if it is revoked.

DISCIPLINARY CONSIDERATIONS

- 55. To determine the degree of discipline, if any, to be imposed on Respondents, Complainant alleges:
- a. On February 22, 2012, the Board issued Citation number CI 2011 49857 against Respondent Cabrillo Park Pharmacy for violating Business and Professions Code section 4126.5(a)(4) for improperly furnishing drugs to a wholesaler. The Board issued a fine which Respondent paid.
- b. On February 23, 2012, the Board issued a Letter of Admonishment to Respondent James Gee for violating Business and Professions Code section 4126.5(a)(4) for improperly furnishing drugs to a wholesaler.
- c. On March 10, 1999, the Board issued Citation Number CI 1996 14411 against Soong Chang for violating title 16, California Code of Regulations, section 1707.2 for failing to provide oral consultation to a patient. The Board issued a fine which Respondent paid.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board of Pharmacy issue a decision:

- 1. Revoking or suspending Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 45771, issued to Gee's Healthcare Pharmacy, Inc., doing business as Yorba Park Pharmacy;
- 2. Revoking or suspending Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 50066, issued to Gee's Healthcare Pharmacy, Inc., doing business as Cabrillo Park Pharmacy;
- Revoking or suspending Pharmacist License Number RPH 44796, issued to James
 Ying-Ming Gee;
- 4. Revoking or suspending Pharmacist License Number RPH 45540, issued to Soong OK Chang:
- 5. Revoking or suspending Pharmacist License Number RPH 42197, issued to Ang Ngoc Phan;
- 6. Prohibiting Gee's Healthcare Pharmacy, Inc., doing business as Cabrillo Park
 Pharmacy and Yorba Park Pharmacy from serving as a manager, administrator, owner, member,

officer, director, associate, or partner of a licensee for five years if Pharmacy Permit Numbers PHY 45771 and PHY 50066 are placed on probation or until Pharmacy Permit Numbers PHY 45771 and PHY 50066 are reinstated if Pharmacy Permit Numbers 45771 and 5006 issued to Gee's Healthcare Pharmacy, Inc. doing business as Cabrillo Park Pharmacy and Yorba Park Pharmacy are revoked;

- 7. Prohibiting James Ying-Ming Gee from serving as a manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, or partner of a licensee for five years if Pharmacy Permit Numbers PHY 45771 and PHY 50066 are placed on probation or until Pharmacy Permit Numbers PHY 45771 and PHY 50066 are reinstated if Pharmacy Permit Numbers 45771 and 5006 issued to Gee's Healthcare Pharmacy, Inc. doing business as Cabrillo Park Pharmacy and Yorba Park Pharmacy are revoked;
- 8. Prohibiting James Ying-Ming Gee from serving as a manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, or partner of a licensee for five years if Pharmacist License Number RPH 44796 is placed on probation or until Pharmacist License Number RPH 44796 is reinstated if Pharmacist License Number RPH 44796 issued to James Ying-Ming Gee is revoked;
- 9. Ordering Gee's Healthcare Pharmacy, Inc., doing business as Cabrillo Park
 Pharmacy, Ordering Gee's Healthcare Pharmacy, Inc., doing business as Yorba Park Pharmacy
 James Ying-Ming Gee, Soong OK Chang and Anh Ngoc Phan to pay the Board of Pharmacy the
 reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and
 Professions Code section 125.3;
 - 10. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: 3/24/1S

VIRGINIA HEROLD

Executive Officer

Board of Pharmacy

Department of Consumer Affairs

State of California

Complainant

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| | | |
| 1 | KAMALA D. HARRIS Attorney General of California | |
| 2 | LINDA K. SCHNEIDER Supervising Deputy Attorney General | · |
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| 22 | Respondents. | |
| 23 | | |
| 24 | | |
| 25 | Complainant alleges: | |
| 26 | PARTIES | |
| 27 | 1. Virginia Herold (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her official capacity | |
| 28 | as the Executive Officer of the Board of Pharmacy, Department of Consumer Affairs. | |
| | 1 | |
| | | Accusation |

- 2. On or about September 1, 2009, the Board of Pharmacy issued Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 50066 to Gee's Healthcare Pharmacy, Inc., doing business as Cabrillo Park Pharmacy (Respondent Cabrillo Park Pharmacy). The Pharmacy Permit was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on September 1, 2015, unless renewed.
- 3. On or about August 14, 1992, the Board of Pharmacy issued Pharmacist License Number RPH 45540 to Soong OK Chang (Respondent Soong Chang.) The Pharmacist License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on September 30, 2015, unless renewed.
- 4. On or about August 26, 1991, the Board of Pharmacy issued Pharmacist License Number RPH 44796 to James Ying-Ming Gee (Respondent James Gee.) The Pharmacist License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on April 30, 2015, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

- 5. This Accusation is brought before the Board of Pharmacy (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.
- 6. Section 4011 of the Code provides that the Board shall administer and enforce both the Pharmacy Law [Bus. & Prof. Code, § 4000 et seq.] and the Uniform Controlled Substances Act [Health & Safety Code, § 11000 et seq.].
- 7. Section 4300(a) of the Code provides that every license issued by the Board may be suspended or revoked.
 - 8. Section 4300.1 of the Code states:

The expiration, cancellation, forfeiture, or suspension of a board-issued license by operation of law or by order or decision of the board or a court of law, the placement of a license on a retired status, or the voluntary surrender of a license by a licensee shall not deprive the board of jurisdiction to commence or proceed with any investigation of, or action or disciplinary proceeding against, the licensee or to render a decision suspending or revoking the license.

STATUTORY AND REGULATORY PROVISIONS

- 9. Section 4081 of the Code states in pertinent part:
- (a) All records of manufacture and of sale, acquisition, or disposition of dangerous drugs or dangerous devices shall be at all times during business hours open to inspection by authorized officers of the law, and shall be preserved for at least three years from the date of making. A current inventory shall be kept by every manufacturer, wholesaler, pharmacy, veterinary food-animal drug retailer, physician, dentist, podiatrist, veterinarian, laboratory, clinic, hospital, institution, or establishment holding a currently valid and unrevoked certificate, license, permit, registration, or exemption under Division 2 (commencing with Section 1200) of the Health and Safety Code or under Part 4 (commencing with Section 16000) of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code who maintains a stock of dangerous drugs or dangerous devices.
- (b) The owner, officer, and partner of any pharmacy, wholesaler, or veterinary food-animal drug retailer shall be jointly responsible, with the pharmacist-in-charge or representative-in-charge, for maintaining the records and inventory described in this section.
- 10. Section 4301 of the Code states in pertinent part:

The board shall take action against any holder of a license who is guilty of unprofessional conduct or whose license has been procured by fraud or misrepresentation or issued by mistake. Unprofessional conduct shall include, but is not limited to, any of the following:

- (j) The violation of any of the statutes of this state, or any other state, or of the United States regulating controlled substances and dangerous drugs....
- (o) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violation of or conspiring to violate any provision or term of this chapter or of the applicable federal and state laws and regulations governing pharmacy, including regulations established by the board or any other state or federal regulatory agency.
- 11. Section 4113(c) of the Code states:

The pharmacist-in-charge shall be responsible for a pharmacy's compliance with all state and federal laws and regulations pertaining to the practice of pharmacy.

Section 4306.5 of the Code states, in pertinent part:Unprofessional conduct for a pharmacist may include any of the following:

Acts or omissions that involve, in whole or in part, the inappropriate exercise of his or her education, training, or experience as a pharmacist, whether or not the act or omission arises in the course of the practice of pharmacy or the ownership, management, administration, or operation of a pharmacy or other entity licensed by the board.

Acts or omissions that involve, in whole or in part, the failure to consult appropriate patient, prescription, and other records pertaining to the performance of any pharmacy function.

13. Health and Safety Code section 11153(a) states:

A prescription for a controlled substance shall only be issued for a legitimate medical purpose by an individual practitioner acting in the usual course of his or her professional practice. The responsibility for the proper prescribing and dispensing of controlled substances is upon the prescribing practitioner, but a corresponding responsibility rests with the pharmacist who fills the prescription. Except as authorized by this division, the following are not legal prescriptions: (1) an order purporting to be a prescription which is issued not in the usual course of professional treatment or in legitimate and authorized research; or (2) an order for an addict or habitual user of controlled substances, which is issued not in the course of professional treatment or as part of an authorized narcotic treatment program, for the purpose of providing the user with controlled substances, sufficient to keep him or her comfortable by maintaining customary use.

14. Section 1707.3 of title 16, California Code of Regulations states:

Prior to consultation as set forth in section 1707.2, a pharmacist shall review a patient's drug therapy and medication record before each prescription drug is delivered. The review shall include screening for severe potential drug therapy problems.

15. Section 1714(b) of title 16, California Code of Regulations states:

Each pharmacy licensed by the board shall maintain its facilities, space, fixtures, and equipment so that drugs are safely and properly prepared, maintained, secured and distributed. The pharmacy shall be of sufficient size and unobstructed area to accommodate the safe practice of pharmacy.

16. Section 1715.6 of title 16, California Code of Regulations states:

The owner shall report to the Board within thirty (30) days of discovery of any loss of the controlled substances, including their amounts and strengths.

17. Section 1716 of title 16, California Code of Regulations states:

Pharmacists shall not deviate from the requirements of a prescription except upon the prior consent of the prescriber or to select the drug product in accordance with Section 4073 of the Business and Professions Code.

Nothing in this regulation is intended to prohibit a pharmacist from exercising

commonly accepted pharmaceutical practice in the compounding or dispensing of a prescription.

18. Section 1718 of title 16, California Code of Regulations states:

"Current Inventory" as used in Section 4081 and 4332 of the Business and Professions Code shall be considered to include complete accountability for all dangerous drugs handled by every licensee enumerated in Section 4081 and 4332.

The controlled substances inventories required by Title 21, CFR, Section 1304 shall be available for inspection upon request for at least three years.

- 19. Section 1761 of title 16, California Code of Regulations states:
 - (a) No pharmacist shall compound or dispense any prescription which contains any significant error, omission, irregularity, uncertainty, ambiguity or alteration. Upon receipt of any such prescription, the pharmacist shall contact the prescriber to obtain the information needed to validate the prescription.
 - (b) Even after conferring with the prescriber, a pharmacist shall not compound or dispense a controlled substance prescription where the pharmacist knows or has objective reason to know that said prescription was not issued for a legitimate medical purpose.

COST RECOVERY

20. Section 125.3 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

DRUGS

- 21. <u>Dilaudid</u> is the brand name for hydromorphine, a Schedule II controlled substance pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 11054(b)(J) and a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022.
- 22. <u>Norco</u> is the brand name for hydrocodone/acetaminophen, a Schedule III controlled substance pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 11056(e)(5) and a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022.
- 23. Opana is the brand name for oxymorphone hydrochloride, a Schedule II controlled substance pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 11054(b)(N) and a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022.

- 24. Oxycodone is a Schedule II controlled substance pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 11054(b)(M) and a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022.
- 25. <u>Xanax</u> is the brand name for alprazolam, a Schedule IV controlled substance pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 11057(d)(1) and a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 26. From September 1, 2009 through the present, Respondent James Gee was the Pharmacist-in-Charge of Respondent Cabrillo Park Pharmacy. From September 2012 through January 2013, Respondent Soong Chang was a staff pharmacist at Respondent Cabrillo Park Pharmacy.
- 27. Respondents filled prescriptions for controlled substances which were written by Dr. M.S. from September 24, 2012 through January 11, 2013. Dr. M.S.'s address was listed on the prescriptions filled by Respondents as being 53 miles away from Respondent Cabrillo Park Pharmacy. Respondent Cabrillo Park Pharmacy was an average of 65 miles (one way) from the patients' addresses listed on prescriptions written by Dr. M.S. who had a general practice with a secondary practice in pediatrics and did not specialize in pain management. Patients paid for the controlled substance prescriptions in cash at Respondent Cabrillo Park Pharmacy and did not seek reimbursement from an insurance company or government agency.
- 28. Dr. M.S.'s prescriptions for controlled substances were written in an identical fashion for multiple patients as follows: (1) hydrocodone/APAP 10/325, with directions to take 1-2 tablets three times a day in a quantity of 90-100; (2) alprazolam 2 mg with directions to take 1 tablet three times a day in a quantity of 90; and (3) oxycodone 30mg with directions to take 1 tablet three times a day in a quantity of 90. Certain prescriptions filled by Respondents were not signed by Dr. M.S. and other prescriptions were filled by Respondents even though they were signed by a physician who was not the prescribing physician.
- 29. Additionally, drivers picked up the controlled substances for multiple patients from Respondents, rather than the patients themselves picking up their prescriptions. Respondents did

not possess written authorization allowing those drivers to pick up the controlled substance prescriptions for multiple patients. To facilitate the drug transactions with the drivers, Respondents kept envelopes which contained prescriptions for controlled substances to be filled, next to the cash register. Respondents telephoned the drivers to initiate a pick up when they had filled all the multiple prescriptions for controlled substances. In that same drawer, Respondents kept a pricing sheet for controlled substances and the telephone numbers of the drivers to further facilitate these drug transactions with the drivers.

- 30. Respondents Cabrillo Park Pharmacy and James Gee placed orders for suspiciously large amounts of controlled substances with their drug wholesaler. Notwithstanding those orders, Respondents did not dispense all the prescriptions for controlled substances in a timely manner as prescribed, because they sought to avoid charges that they were excessively prescribing controlled substances from the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Board.
- 31. Respondents did not follow proper procedures for verifying if a prescription for a controlled substance was written for a legitimate medical purpose. Indeed, Respondents dispensed prescriptions to patients who had lost their wallets or social security cards and had been victims of identity theft. And, Respondent's furnishings of controlled substances was higher than neighboring pharmacies during the same time frame.
- 32. Respondents also had discrepancies in their drug inventory. From June 2012 through January 2013, Respondents Cabrillo Park Pharmacy and James Gee suffered the following losses of controlled substances: 734 tablets of hydrocodone/APAP 10mg/325mg and 20 tablets of hydromorphone 4mg. They did not report those losses to the Board.
- 33. Respondents Cabrillo Park Pharmacy and James Gee's inventory contained overages of 165 tablets of alprazolam 2mg and 152 tablets of oxycodone 30mg. Therefore, they did not maintain complete records of acquisition for those controlled substances.

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Maintain Current Inventory of Controlled Substance against Respondents Cabrillo Park Pharmacy and James Gee)

34. Respondents Cabrillo Park Pharmacy and James Gee are subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4301(o), for violating title 16, California Code of Regulations, section 1718, in that they did not maintain a current inventory of controlled substances, alprazolam, oxycodone, hydrocodone/APAP and hydromorphone, and suffered losses in their inventory of hydrocodone/APAP and hydromorphone, as set forth in paragraphs 26 through 33 above, which are incorporated herein by reference.

SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Report Drug Losses against Respondents

Cabrillo Park Pharmacy and James Gee)

35. Respondents Cabrillo Park Pharmacy and James Gee are subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4301(o), for violating title 16, California Code of Regulations, section 1715.6, in that they did not report the losses of controlled substances, hydrocodone/APAP and hydromorphone to the Board, as set forth in paragraphs 26 through 33 above, which are incorporated herein by reference.

THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Provide Adequate Security for Controlled Substance against Respondents Cabrillo Park Pharmacy and James Gee)

36. Respondents Cabrillo Park Pharmacy and James Gee are subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4301(o), for violating title 16, California Code of Regulations, section 1714(b), in that they did not provide adequate security for controlled substances, hydrocodone/APAP and hydromorphone, as set forth in paragraphs 26 through 33 above, which are incorporated herein by reference.

FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Maintain Records of Acquisition)

37. Respondents Cabrillo Park Pharmacy and James Gee are subject to disciplinary action under Code sections 4301(o), for violating Code section 4081(a), in that they failed to maintain all the records of acquisition for the controlled substances, alprazolam 2mg and oxycodone 30mg, as set forth in paragraphs 26 through 33, which are incorporated herein by reference.

FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failing to Comply with Corresponding Responsibility

for Legitimate Controlled Substance Prescriptions against Respondents)

38. Respondents are subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4301(j), for violating Health and Safety Code section 11153(a), in that they failed to comply with their corresponding responsibility to ensure that controlled substances were dispensed for a legitimate medical purpose when Respondents furnished prescriptions for controlled substances even though "red flags" were present, indicating those prescriptions were not issued for a legitimate medical purpose, as set forth in paragraphs 26 through 33 above, which are incorporated herein by reference.

SIXTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Dispensing Controlled Substance Prescriptions with Significant Errors, Omissions, Irregularities, Uncertainties, Ambiguities or Alterations against Respondents)

39. Respondents are subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4301(o), for violating title 16, California Code of Regulations, sections 1761(a) and (b) in that they dispensed prescriptions for controlled substances, which contained significant errors, omissions, irregularities, uncertainties, ambiguities or alterations, as set forth in paragraphs 26 through 33 above, which are incorporated herein by reference.

SEVENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Review Patients' Medication Record Before Prescription Drugs Delivered against Respondents)

40. Respondents are subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4301(o), for violating title 16, California Code of Regulations, section 1707.3, in that they dispensed prescriptions for drugs, without review of patients' medication records before each prescription drug was delivered. Such a review would have revealed numerous "red flags," as set forth in paragraphs 26 through 33 above, which are incorporated herein by reference.

EIGHTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Dispensing Controlled Substances with Variations from Prescriptions against Respondents Cabrillo Park Pharmacy and James Gee)

41. Respondents Cabrillo Park Pharmacy and James Gee are subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4301(o) for violating title 16, California Code of Regulations, section 1716, in that they dispensed controlled substances which deviated from the requirements of the prescriptions without the prior consent of the prescribers and dispensed controlled substances when the prescriptions were prescribed by Dr. M.S. but signed by another physician, as set forth in paragraphs 26 through 33, which are incorporated herein by reference.

NINTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Exercise or Implement Best Professional Judgment or Corresponding Responsibility when Dispensing Controlled Substances against Respondents James Gee and Soong Chang)

42. Respondents James Gee and Soong Chang are subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4301(o), for violating Business and Professions Code section 4306.5(a) and (b), in that they failed to exercise or implement his or her best professional judgment or corresponding responsibility when dispensing controlled substances, as set forth in paragraphs 26 through 33 above, which are incorporated herein by reference.

TENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unprofessional Conduct against Respondents James Gee and Soong Chang)

43. Respondents James Gee and Soong Chang are subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4301 for unprofessional conduct in that they engaged in the activities described in paragraphs 26 through 33 above, which are incorporated herein by reference.

DISCIPLINARY CONSIDERATIONS

- 44. To determine the degree of discipline, if any, to be imposed on Respondents, Complainant alleges:
- a. On February 22, 2012, the Board issued Citation number CI 2011 49857 against Respondent Cabrillo Park Pharmacy for violating Business and Professions Code section 4126.5(a)(4) for improperly furnishing drugs to a wholesaler. The Board issued a fine which Respondent paid.
- b. On February 23, 2012, the Board issued a Letter of Admonishment to Respondent James Gee for violating Business and Professions Code section 4126.5(a)(4) for improperly furnishing drugs to a wholesaler.
- c. On March 10, 1999, the Board issued Citation Number CI 1996 14411 against Soong Chang for violating title 16, California Code of Regulations, section 1707.2 for failing to provide oral consultation to a patient. The Board issued a fine which Respondent paid.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board of Pharmacy issue a decision:

- 1. Revoking or suspending Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 50066, issued to Gee's Healthcare Pharmacy, Inc., doing business as Cabrillo Park Pharmacy;
- 2. Revoking or suspending Pharmacist License Number RPH 45540, issued to Soong OK Chang;
- 3. Revoking or suspending Pharmacist License Number RPH 44796, issued to James Ying-Ming Gee;

| 1 | 4. Ordering Gee's Healthcare Pharmacy, Inc., doing business as Cabrillo Park Pharmacy, | | |
|----|--|---|--|
| 2 | Soong OK Chang and James Ying-Ming Gee to pay the Board of Pharmacy the reasonable costs | | |
| 3 | of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and Professions Code | | |
| 4 | section 125.3; | | |
| 5 | 5. | 5. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper. | |
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| 8 | | toletted () in (XI) | |
| 9 | DATED: _ | VIRGINIA HEROLD | |
| 10 | | Executive Officer Board of Pharmacy | |
| 11 | | Department of Consumer Affairs State of California | |
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